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CITY OF SAN JOSE  
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

June 28, 2007

Darryl Boyd, Principal Planner  
City of San Jose Department of Planning

**Re: COYOTE VALLEY SPECIFIC PLAN, DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL  
IMPACT REPORT COMMENTS**

Dear Darryl,

The Silicon Valley Land Conservancy submits the following comments regarding the DEIR for the Coyote Valley Specific Plan. Even though we continue to maintain our non-political position, as we have since our founding, we need to let our concerns be known.

**Protection of Tulare Hill**

The SVLC owns the 119 acre Bay checkerspot butterfly (BCB) preserve on the southern 1/3 of Tulare Hill. That property forms the northern boundary to the CVSP. We have a mandate to maintain that property as a viable butterfly population. In the past few years the BCB has nearly gone extinct on Tulare Hill. In fact, this past spring, Dr. Stuart Weiss found no larvae and only one butterfly on Tulare Hill. With the existing CVSP, and only a 100' buffer on Fisher Creek, we feel that there could be significant impacts to Tulare Hill that were not addressed in the DEIR. Specifically, the impact of increased population such as the significant increased night light, noise and trespass of pets were not addressed.

How does the CVSP plan to mitigate these significant impacts of encroaching populations and the continued protection of Tulare Hill as a preserve for the Bay checkerspot butterfly?

**Wild Life Corridor (4.6.2.4, p. 253)**

Recent scientific data was presented to the CVSP Task Force by Dr. Grey Hayes stating that Coyote Valley is one of only 2 remaining viable wild life corridors connecting the Diablo Range to the east of Coyote Valley and the Santa Cruz mountains to the west. We look forward to continuing to being a part of any viable corridor connecting those two ranges. The DEIR does not specifically address the needed width of a viable corridor nor does it specifically mention the species that the corridor would provide for. Adequate provisions need to be made to assure corridors are identified and maintained to



provide corridor for wildlife to traverse through Coyote Valley and to points east and west.

How does the City of San Jose plan to address the wildlife corridor issue if the CVSP stays in it's current form? Does the City of San Jose plan to consider these significant impacts?

**Mitigation for Nitrogen Deposition (4.6.3.7 p. 285)**

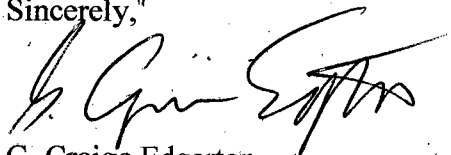
We also want the City of San Jose to understand that SVLC remains an attractive option to hold mitigated lands for any BCB mitigation required for the nitrogen deposition mitigation that may be required. We were founded in 1998 specifically for this type of mission and hope that we will be part of any negotiation for accepting mitigated lands in the future. Currently, SVLC owns in fee title 116 acres on Tulare Hill, 95 acres on Coyote Ridge and a 206 acre conservation easement on Coyote Ridge north of Metcalf Road. These lands are home to many species including California red legged frog, California tiger salamander, Western Burrowing owl, Bay checkerspot butterfly, Tricolored blackbird, Golden Eagle and numerous other threatened plants and animals.

**South Coyote Valley Greenbelt Strategy (2.1.12, p 44)**

The SVLC would support and encourage the establishment of an Agricultural Park in the Greenbelt as outlined in the report by Sibella Krause of SAGE, Appendix D: South Coyote Valley Agricultural Park: *A potential Land Use Concept*. As the largest holder of agricultural easements in Santa Clara County, SVLC has made it a priority to continue to preserve and encourage agriculture in Silicon Valley. We have been actively seeking landowners in the Greenbelt to establish a demonstration farm to prove the viability of locally (preferably organic) grown crops. We encourage the City of San Jose to include SVLC as an active partner in seeing that the Ag Park in the Greenbelt becomes a reality.

It is anticipated that the annexation of mid Coyote Valley will require agricultural mitigation per recently adopted LAFCO guidelines. Again, SVLC expects that it would be considered as a primary partner in accepting and managing those mitigated farm lands.

Sincerely,"



G. Craig Edgerton  
Executive Director  
Silicon Valley Land Conservancy